GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1930
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
REQUEST FROM HP
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh (HP) is incurring a huge loss of revenue every year due to imposition of complete ban on cutting of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has sought/requested for special economic assistance to compensate the loss of revenue accrued to them due to the ban;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount of special economic assistance provided to the State in this regard and the time period during which this assistance has been provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR STATE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) and (b): Forestry is a concurrent subject and forest management practices are dealt with by the State Forest Department. A ban on green felling was imposed by the State Government during the 1980s in the forest area of the State. An authoritative estimate of loss of revenue to the State on this account is not available.

(c) to (e): Yes, Sir. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh had sought financial assistance on account of foss of revenue due to the ban, which was estimated by the State as Rs.80 crore to Rs.100 crore annually. The 13th Finance Commission has recommended `Forest Grants` to State Governments calibrated to the share of the forested area falling in a State as well as to economic disability on the basis of the percentage of forested area in the State. These grants include Rs.100.64 crore to Himachal Pradesh for the period 2010-11 to 2014-15, of which Rs.25.16 crore has been released.

The Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on 25.11.2011 to study development needs in hill States arising from management of forest lands with special focus on creation of infrastructure, livelihood and human development.